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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22879 7590 04/23/2008

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY  
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

UNELUS, ERNEST

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2181

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/811,119

03/26/2004

James W. Owens

200310583-1

9201

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR RESPONDING TO A DATA TRANSFER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	07/23/2008

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

#### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

22879 7590 04/23/2008

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/811,119 03/26/2004 James W. Owens 200310583-1 9201

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR RESPONDING TO A DATA TRANSFER

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	07/23/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
UNELUS, ERNEST	2181	710-060000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

UNELUS, ERNEST

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2181

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2008

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 371 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 371 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/811,119

Applicant(s)

OWENS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

ERNEST UNELUS

2181

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 03/24/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,8-14,17,18,21,22,24-28,31,33,38 and 41-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>03/24/08</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                   | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### **I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Edmond A. Defrank (Reg. No. 37,814) on December 12, 2007. The examiner proposed amendments to better place the application in condition for allowance, particularly adding the limitation that prior arts fail to teach. Mr. Defrank agreed.

The application has been amended as follows:

3. **Claim 1** (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically processing data, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a sustainable data transfer rate between a data appliance and an external memory medium that is directly connectable to the data appliance by transferring a test file and partial test files at predetermined data transfer rates, the test files containing digital representation of video data between the data appliance and the external memory medium;

establishing an image and video quality of data streaming rate using the test file and the partial test file, wherein a data streaming rate below a predetermined quality of image and video data threshold causes a data transfer error;

using an internal clock with monitoring logic associated with the data appliance to confirm data transfer rates associated with transfers of the test file and to log relative start and

stop times associated with the test files, wherein if a data transfer error occurs, the predetermined data transfer rate is adjusted and the test file is re-transferred until a data transfer error does not occur;

using the test file and the partial test file to select values for operational parameter within the data appliance in response to the sustainable data transfer rate for maximizing the image and video quality of data that can be streamed to the external memory medium;

processing data in accordance with the at least one operational parameter;

wherein selecting values for the operational parameters comprises changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter and changing a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter.

4. **Claim 9** (Currently Amended) A data appliance, comprising:

an acquisition system configured to acquire data in response to an acquisition parameter;

a processing system coupled to the acquisition system, the processing system configured to transform data in response to a processing parameters;

a memory interface coupled to the processing system, wherein the data appliance configured to select a values associated with acquisition parameters and the processing parameters responsive to a sustainable data transfer rate between the memory interface and an external memory medium that is directly connectable to the data appliance by transferring a test file and partial test files at predetermined data transfer rates, the test files containing a digital representation of video data between the data appliance and the external memory medium;

wherein the processing system uses the test file and the partial test file to establish an image and video quality of data streaming rate and wherein a data streaming rate below a predetermined quality of image and video data threshold causes a data transfer error; and

an internal clock with monitoring logic associated with the data appliance configured to confirm data transfer rates associated with transfers of the test file and to log relative start and stop times associated with the test files, wherein if a data transfer error occurs, the predetermined data transfer rate is adjusted and the test file is re-transferred until a data transfer error does not occur for maximizing the image and video quality of data that can be streamed to the external memory medium;

wherein the data acquisition and processing parameters use the test file and the partial test file and to select values and wherein selecting values include changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter and changing a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter

5. **Claim 18** (Currently Amended) A system for responding to a data transfer rate, the system configured for use in a data appliance, the system comprising:

means for determining a sustainable data transfer rate for data transfers to/from an external memory medium that directly connects to the data appliance by transferring a test file and partial test files at predetermined data transfer rates, the test files containing a digital representation of video data between the data appliance and the external memory medium;

means for acquiring a data stream;

means for transforming the data stream;

means for establishing an image and video quality of data streaming rate using the test file and the partial test file, wherein a data streaming rate below a predetermined quality of image and video data threshold causes a data transfer error,

means for using the test file and the partial test file to select values for operational parameters associated with the means for acquiring or the means for transforming the data stream in response to the sustainable data transfer rate;

means for using an internal clock with monitoring logic associated with the data appliance to confirm data transfer rates associated with transfers of the test file and to log relative start and stop times associated with the test files, wherein if a data transfer error occurs, the predetermined data transfer rate is adjusted and the test file is re-transferred until a data transfer error does not occur for maximizing the image and video quality of data that can be streamed to the external memory medium; and

wherein selecting values for the operational parameters comprises changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter and changing a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter.

6. **Claim 24** (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium of a data appliance having stored thereon an executable instruction set, the instruction set, when executed by a processor, directing the processor to perform a method comprising:



retrieving a test file and partial test files at predetermined data transfer rates, the test files containing a digital representation of video data and an initial bit rate;

transferring the test file to an external memory medium that is directly connectable to the data appliance;

establishing an image and video quality of data streaming rate by using the test file and the partial test file, wherein a data streaming rate below a predetermined quality of image and video data threshold causes a data transfer error;

determining if a data transfer error condition exists by using an internal clock with monitoring logic associated with the data appliance to confirm data transfer rates associated with transfers of the test file and by logging relative start and stop times associated with the test files;

when it is the case that no data transfer error exists, recording the bit rate to generate a sustainable data transfer rate;

when it is the case that a data transfer error exists, decreasing the bit rate to generate an interim bit rate less than an initial bit rate by a predetermined amount for a remainder of data transfer and/or subsequent data transfers and repeating the transferring, determining, decreasing, and recording steps until another data transfer error condition occurs or the data transfer is completed so that data transfers and bit rate adjustments repeat until no data error is detected during a transfer of the test file for maximizing the image and video quality of data that can be streamed to the external memory medium; and

selecting values for operational parameters by changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for identified data compression parameters and changing a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for identified data acquisition parameters.

7. **Claim 25** (Currently Amended) 25 The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein retrieving the test file and a bit rate comprises retrieving video data.
8. **Claim 26** (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the data transfer error comprises a write operation error.
9. **Claim 27** (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, further comprising: selecting at least one operational parameter in response to the sustainable data rate; and applying the operational parameter.
10. **Claim 28** (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the operational parameter is at least one of an acquisition parameter and a data compression parameter.
11. **Claim 31** (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, the method further comprising: retrieving the test file from the external memory medium responsive to the initial bit rate.
12. **Claim 33** (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the data transfer error comprises a read operation error.

13. **Claim 38** (Currently Amended) A digital camera, comprising:

an image acquisition system configured to generate a video data stream;

a data processing system configured to receive and transform the video data stream to generate a compressed data stream;

an external memory interface coupled to the data processing system and configured to feed back a sustainable data transfer rate to one of the image acquisition system and the data processing system, the sustainable data transfer rate established as an image and video quality of data streaming rate using a test file and a partial test file, wherein a data streaming rate below a predetermined quality of image and video data threshold causes a data transfer error, wherein the sustainable data transfer rate is related to the rate at which data can be transferred between the external memory interface and a removable memory card that couples to the external memory interface, wherein the sustainable data transfer rate is determined by transferring the test file and the partial test files at predetermined data transfer rates, the test files containing a digital representation of video data between the data appliance and the external memory medium; and

an internal clock with monitoring logic associated with the data appliance configured to confirm data transfer rates associated with transfers of the test file and to log relative start and stop times associated with the test files, wherein if a data transfer error occurs, the predetermined data transfer rate is adjusted and the test file is re-transferred until a data transfer error does not occur for maximizing the image and video quality of data that can be streamed to the external memory medium;

wherein values are selected for the data processing system including changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter

and for the image acquisition system for changing values associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter.

**The applicant has canceled claims 3-7, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 29, 30, 32, 34-37, 39, and 40.**

## **II. RELEVANT ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER**

14. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant's art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See **MPEP 707.05(c)**.

15. The following reference teaches a data transfer rate:

Agarwal (US Pat. 5,812,788) discloses changing a bit rate and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter and changing values associated with spatial differences and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter, but fail to teach changing a frame type and a spatial resolution, together. Agarwal also fail to teach a test file and a partial test file.

The following reference also a data transfer rate:

### **U.S. PATENT NUMBER**

US 6,980,594

US 7,149,825

US 7,007,116

## **III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

16. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In regards to claims 1, 9, 18, 24, and 38, the prior art of record fails to disclose "wherein selecting values for the operational parameters comprises changing a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors for an identified data compression parameter and changing a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate for an identified data acquisition parameter".

17. The remaining claims 2, 8, 10-14, 17, 21, 22, 25-28, 31, 33, and 41-47 are allowed by virtue of their dependencies on the independent claims. Hence, the examiner has allowed claims 1, 9, 18, 24, and 38.

18. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### **IV. CLOSING COMMENTS**

##### **Conclusion**

##### **a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

19. The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by **M.P.E.P. 707.07(i)**:

##### **a(1) CLAIMS ALLOWED IN THE APPLICATION**

20. Per the instant office action, claims 1, 2, 8-14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24-28, 31, 33, 38, and 41-47 have been allowed.

**b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES**

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernest Unelus whose telephone number is (571) 272-8596. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

***IMPORTANT NOTE***

22. If attempts to reach the above noted Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Alford Kindred, can be reached at the following telephone number: Area Code (571) 272-4037.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217- 91 97 (toll-free).

April 2, 2008

Ernest Unelus  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2181

/Alford W. Kindred/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2163

E.U

